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# The Voter

MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE LWVWA

September 3, 2021

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**By Beth Pellicciotti, Civics Education Portfolio Director, LWVWA Board**

Civics education is a knowledge base through which League members and the public learn government processes and structures and apply this knowledge to become responsible and engaged citizens. Civics education is broad and impacts many different activities in the League. Soon, members of the LWVWA

- What is the activity?
- Why is it important to your League?
- What is the population you serve and how did you make this contact?
- What resources would you share?

Activities with youth cover a wide range. Leagues work with K-12, colleges, universities (think of the recent college partnerships among Leagues, county auditors, and local public universities to create [student engagement hubs](#)), and organizations serving youth, such as the Girl Scouts or 4-H.

Civics Education Committee members are starting this inventory of answers to these four questions by turning to their own Leagues. They will use their own activities as samples when they present to other Leagues. Here are a few good examples from committee members:

- Seattle-King County (Susan Vossler): The Youth Voting Ambassador program was started by members asking other members about their connections to youth—children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors—and inviting these youth to participate in a social media campaign about voting. It is a great example of an activity that starts with the contacts League members already have.
- Clallam County (Bonnie Bless-Boenish): League members buy stamps for teachers, and children write postcards to family, friends, relatives, or neighbors about the importance of voting or how they, as future voters, would vote on a race or issue. Note that stamps meet a resource need teachers have, and teachers encourage students to think about their issues and voting. This shows the supportive role that Leagues might play in working with schools.
- Snohomish County (Rita Ireland): This "get-in, get-out" activity inspired members to connect with third graders by reading books about women obtaining the right to vote. The age range was intentionally chosen, based on advice from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, as students begin to be aware of their community at this grade level. Librarians were an important audience, and the local League received grant funding to buy the books. This activity shows how League members connect with different audiences in the schools—librarians and third-grade teachers.
- Benton-Franklin Counties (Wendy Espinosa): League members started a high school outreach program with a connection to one or two teachers, a great example of starting with those you know. League members created impactful presentations to high school classes by connecting their presentations to high school social studies requirements and by linking

To learn more about this civics education outreach, contact [Beth Pellicciotti](#), chair of the LWWVA Civics Education Committee. Would you like the June 2021 Inventory of Civics Education Activities for Adults for yourself or your League's webpage? Just let Beth know!

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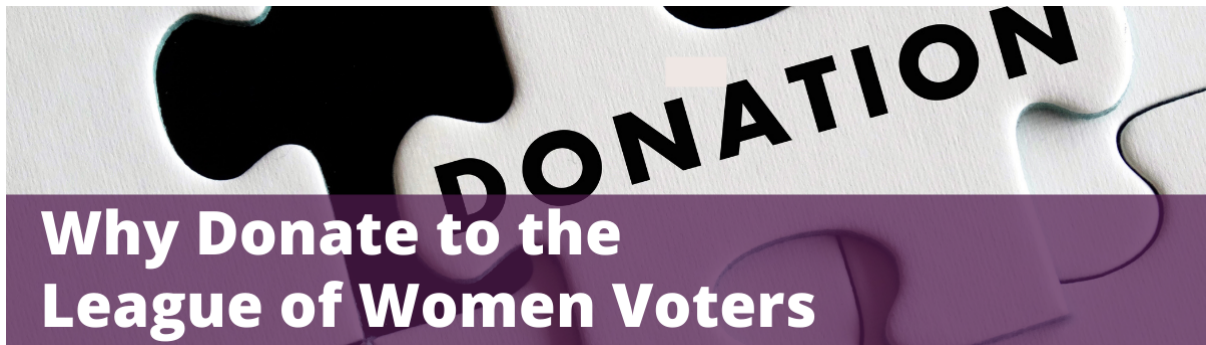


At the LWWVA 2021 convention we had the opportunity to learn about the study the League of Women Voters in Oregon had completed on cybersecurity, privacy, and election security. Oregon now has a position statement on this very important issue—LWWVA does not. With the advent of a new era of digital surveillance, cybercrime, and privacy issues, we will be reviewing their position, which will be considered at the LWWUS 2022 National Convention.

This is a complicated issue, but the good news is that Oregon has done most of the groundwork for us. Read an overview of the work they've done to put their policy together in their [Surveillance & Biometrics](#) LWWVA 2021 Convention presentation.

Several LWWVA members expressed interest in exploring what Oregon did, with the idea of perhaps looking at concurrence or developing our own policy. The plan is to meet monthly for two to three meetings. The Oregon team would help walk us through the policy and be available for questions. Then we could invite experts in the field and/or legislators doing work in this area to join us. The goal is to have something ready for the LWWVA 2023 convention and to have members, especially those who will be 2022 LWWUS delegates, informed about the Oregon position. The work is hard. The full [Privacy and Cybersecurity Today](#) study is 61 pages long and requires a thorough understanding of what needs to be done. The LWWV of Oregon work as also made all its resources available on its [Privacy and Cybersecurity Today](#) page on its website.

Are you interested in this work? If so, contact [Meg Van Wyk](#) if you want to join in this most important work.

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**By Roslyn Duffy, Development Portfolio Director, LWV of Washington**

As the new Development Portfolio Director for the LWVWA, I realized that the first question I needed to ask myself was “Why? Why would I send money to the LWVWA?” Or to my local League or to the US League? Or to anything? Without that *why* I wouldn’t have the inner energy to make a compelling fundraising appeal for anything. Here is the difference a *why* makes.

If I asked you what you were doing right now, it would be fairly easy to answer.

- I’m making a batch of chocolate chip cookies.
- I’m working on a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle.
- I’m writing a letter to my senator.

But what we do is driven by something else. We do things for a reason, and that reason, the motivation for any *what* is our *why*. The *why* changes everything.

Why cookies?

My friend broke his leg and I want to get these cookies in the mail so he will get them this week.

The puzzle?

The senator?

I am really worried about voting rights and I want my senator to know that I see both the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act as essential safeguards for our democracy and I want passing them to be her top priority.

The *why* changes everything.

I have been asking people for their *whys* over the past weeks. The results have been truly inspiring. Ranging from a “hunger for knowledge” and “countering misinformation and I trust the League” to “the League has an impact,” people have shared their passion for the League in countless ways. I, too, have lots of *whys* for wanting to contribute to the LWVWA’s work.

I value the work our Lobby Team does in promoting action and getting laws passed at the state level. I care about the work Voter Services does to empower voters and Get Out the Vote. I believe the work of civics education creates the deep roots needed for a successful democracy, and the LWVWA’s textbook, *The State We’re In*, begins that process for our state’s children. And most of all, I want to save our democracy.

It’s clear we have the *whys*—next we need funds to make the *whats* happen! I would love to hear from you with your *whys*. Feel free to contact me, [Roslyn Duffy](#), because *why* changes everything.

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**Welcome Stephanie!**

The LWV of Washington is pleased to welcome Stephanie Elie-Martin as our new part-time staff person. She will be working with Amy Peloff, our administrative director, and the LWVWA Board of Directors as the LWVWA continues to improve services and take action to make democracy work. Some League members met Stephanie when she was a member of the research committee that managed

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grateful to the LWVWA Convention delegates who approved the budget that makes hiring Stephanie possible!



## Voter Services at Work

**By Mary Coltrane, Voter Services Portfolio Director, LWV of Washington**

The LWVWA Voter Services Committee has been at work putting together Be a Voter tools to assist local Leagues in getting out the vote, getting stories together for our *Your Vote* tabloid produced in partnership with *The Spokesman-Review*, and delving into election mis- and disinformation.

This last project, the Election Credibility Project, is particularly timely given efforts to cast doubt on the integrity of our voting systems. To answer questions you may have about this issue, the Voter Services Committee organized a special meeting on Thursday, Sept. 23 to which all League members are invited.

### Special Voter Services Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 23, 6:30 p.m.

Topic: Report on interviews with auditors and election officials

## Mark Your Calendar

Here's the backstory. Linnea Hirst, chair of the Election Credibility Project (and past state League president), came to the state League with an idea about

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hear what stories the Office of the Secretary of State was receiving from voters. Working with this information, the subcommittee created a list of answers to the misinformation using what some journalists call the “truth sandwich” format, in which a news report is refuted by presenting truth/misinformation/truth. (The [truth sandwich](#) format is based on the work of linguist George Lakoff.)

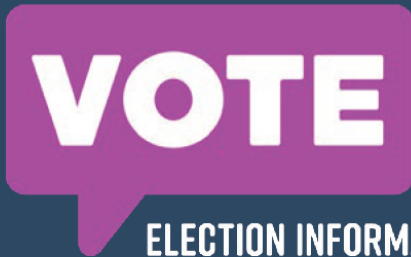
The Election Credibility Project went further: What stories have Washington state auditors and election officials heard from their constituents? To find out, several League members interviewed election officials from counties across our state. What did they learn? Quite a lot. You can find out at the Special Voter Services Meeting on Sept. 23. This meeting will feature excerpts from an interview with Kitsap County Auditor Paul Andrews, a short introduction to key points learned in the interviews, and breakout sessions to talk about what’s going on. Several of the interviewers will be on hand to join the breakout sessions and offer their perspective on the critical issues facing elections officials today. If you can’t make it, look for a recording on the state League site.

The work of the Election Credibility Project will be in the forthcoming *Your Vote* tabloid. Look for a digital copy to accompany the next *This Month in the League*. Or check the state League home page for a digital copy.

The [Be a Voter toolkit](#) is now on the state League website. Here’s a sample of what’s in the toolkit.

# Be a VOTER

This year, elections focus on local candidates and issues.



411



ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

- Register to vote
- Learn more about candidates
- Check your ballot

**General Election November 2, 2021**



Half page flyer with voter checklist from the [Be a Voter toolkit](#) available on the state League website.

Leagues across the state will use these tools to help Get Out the Vote (GOTV). The toolkit includes full-page flyers, half-page flyers, and bookmarks. Local



Spanish as well. More will be added as they become available. Special thanks go to Susan Fiksdal, who spearheaded this project; Alicia Vause, who created the tools (with much committee input!); and Wende Sanderson, who arranged for Spanish translations.

The third project Voter Services has been working on is the *Your Vote* tabloid. This is such an exciting project, and the League has been so fortunate to work in partnership with *The Spokesman-Review* to produce this super information. The tabloid focuses on stories that welcome all into the electorate and highlights how our elections are free and fair. Special thanks go to Dee Anne Finken for her work on the many stories you will find there, and to Linnea Hirst, Julie Anne Kempf, and all the members of the Election Credibility Project for their work on the “Your Vote, Your Voice” article.

*The Spokesman-Review* is making the *Your Vote* digital pages widely available and is offering these pages to other print media. Many local Leagues have ordered copies to be used in tabling and other in-person events or to distribute via libraries, bookstores, and community locations. As mentioned, a digital version will be available on the state League home page and included with *This Month in the League* as an attachment as soon as it’s available. Keep an eye out for it—send it to your friends and families.

Everyone should be proud of elections in Washington state, but like everything, we often take the best for granted. Now is a good time to remind folks that we’ve got great electoral processes and joining the electorate is fun and easy. Your help in spreading this message will do a lot to counter the mis- and disinformation you may be reading about these days. Thank you!



**By Carolyn Stewart, Board Member, LWV of Bellingham/Whatcom County**

On Saturday, Aug. 28, the League of Women Voters of Washington, in partnership with Fix Democracy First and the Washington Indivisible Network, hosted a virtual [March On for Voting Rights](#) in solidarity with in-person marches in many cities across the country. Marchers were protesting the huge surge in anti-voting legislation introduced or passed in state legislatures countrywide

[Voting Rights Advancement Act](#) (HR 4). If you didn't get a chance to march virtually with us on Saturday, [you can view the recording of the event](#).

Our virtual march had over 650 registrants and 300 attendees who tuned in live—not just from Washington, but from states as far away as Florida, New York, and Texas. One individual even registered from Denmark! It's safe to say we're helping to get the word out about voting rights.

We are also incredibly thankful to our passionate and inspiring speakers and performers. The amazing Rebecca M. Davis emceed. We heard fantastic live musical performances from Cameron Lavi-Jones and King Youngblood, as well as a rousing musical call to action from Songs for Good and the Peace Poets. We heard from a number of engaging speakers, including Martin Luther King III, Crystal Langhorne (Director of Community Relations for the Seattle Storm and two-time WNBA champion), the [Reverend Terrance McKinley](#) (Director of Racial Justice at Sojourners and Pastor at Campbell AME Church), and many Washington state elected officials.

Voting rights are under threat nationwide—and a threat to voting rights in one place is a threat to voting rights everywhere. It is critical we all get involved to protect voting rights by passing HR 1 and HR 4. There are many ways you can get involved:

- Call your senators: Call 1-888-453-3211 and tell them to pass HR 1, HR 4, and the [Washington, D.C. Admission Act](#) (statehood for D.C.). Read the [LWVUS statement](#) to the U.S. Senate on the D.C.
- Contact the White House: Call 202-456-1111 and /or [send a message to President Biden](#) telling him to use his power to push for the passage of these bills.
- Phone bank: Both [Common Cause](#) and [Represent Us](#) are organizing phone banks to reach out to voters in key states across the country asking them to contact their senators to support the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.
- Write a letter to the editor: Use this [handy tool to easily craft and submit your letter](#) to up to five local newspapers.
- Host a virtual postcard or letter writing party: Use this [toolkit](#) from the LWV of Texas to help plan and put on a postcard party.

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**TAKE ACTION!**

- Call Your Senators
- Call the White House
- Phone or text bank
- Register Voters
- Host a postcard/letter writing party
- Write a Letter to the Editor in your local newspaper
- Talk to your friends and family about taking action
- Share your story

**MARCH ON  
FOR VOTING RIGHTS**

Washington State Virtual March  
AUGUST 28th

Emcee Rebecca M. Davis encourages virtual marchers to take action now! If you missed this inspiring event, you can still [watch the recording](#).



### Voting Rights

On Tuesday, Aug. 24, the League and its allies at People For the American Way hosted a [rally and act of civil disobedience](#) in front of the White House, calling on President Biden and his administration to use the full extent of their power to pass pro-voter reforms like the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA) and the For the People Act. League members from across the U.S. traveled to D.C. to make their voices heard.

Later that day, the U.S. House passed the John Lewis VRAA. The League celebrates the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA) in the House of Representatives. In order to help Leagues understand what the VRAA will do, the LWVUS has compiled a [summary of the legislation](#).

On Monday, Sept. 13, senators will return to Washington, D.C., and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer promised us that voting rights will be the senate's first legislative priority. That's why on Friday, Sept. 17, the League is making its voice heard by hosting a nationwide Finish the Job for the People day of action calling on the senate to pass the For the People Act and

## Ready, Set, Draw! Redistricting Begins

This month, the U.S. Census Bureau released the data necessary to begin America's once-in-a-decade map-drawing process. This process is critical, as it determines whether communities across the country are fairly and accurately represented for the next 10 years. Through its People Powered Fair Maps program, the League is empowering people across the nation to become involved in their local redistricting process. [Learn more about redistricting and fair maps.](#)

## Apply to Join the 2022-2024 LWVUS Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

The LWVUS is seeking volunteers to join the 2022–2024 [LWVUS Board of Directors](#) and the [Nominating Committee](#). All applications must be submitted by October 29, 2021. Apply for the [Board of Directors](#) and the [Nominating Committee](#).

## Introducing the LWVUS UN Observer Corps

In spring 2021, the League launched a new application process to recruit talented members with international experience to support the League's international programming. The new United Nations Observer Corps team, which started its work July 1, includes Chief UN Observer Dr. Connie Sobon Sensor (NJ), Observer Paulette Austin, Observer Jane Colvin (NY), Observer Sarah Hirsh (NY), Observer Dr. Madeline Motta (VT), and Observer Robin Tokmakian (OR). We look forward to sharing more in the coming months about the amazing work they will do to forward the League's mission to empower voters and defend democracy internationally! To learn more about the team, [check out their bios.](#)



## September 2021

**Wednesday, September 8**—LWVUS Field Call to discuss and share advocacy plans for voting rights events, 2 p.m. PT. [Registration](#) required.

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**Thursday, September 23**—Special Voter Services Meeting, 6:30 p.m. PT. Zoom link to come in *This Month in the League*.

**Wednesday, September 25**—LWVUS Legislative and Litigation Priorities meeting for 2021-2022 fiscal year. Online. [Registration](#) required.

## October 2021

**Monday, October 18**— LWVWA Board Meeting, noon–3:30 p.m., contact [Amy Peloff](#) to attend.

**Tuesday, October 19**— LWVWA Education Fund Board Meeting, noon–3:30 p.m., contact [Amy Peloff](#) to attend.

**Friday, October 29**—Last day to submit applications for the LWVUS [Board of Directors](#) and the [Nominating Committee](#).



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